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IMPORTANT NOTICE!

All Scientific Papers submitted for Publication must be typewritten.

Notify the office promptly of any change of address, in order that mailing list and addresses in the Register may be corrected.

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EDITORIALS

THE LEGISLATURE MEETS SOON.

In January the State Legislature will meet. There is considerable evidence that unusual efforts will be made to remove the legal barriers that are designed to protect the public against half-educated practitioners of the healing art. Members of the State Society are strongly urged to get in touch at once with their senators and assemblymen and remind them that the regular medical profession demands that standards be NOT LOWERED. We feel it the duty of the State to see that only educated and completely trained physicians are provided for the public. The regular medical profession is not trying to limit the number of *educated* practitioners, but it is striving very hard and will keep on striving to limit the number of half-educated licentiates to the smallest possible minimum. The State Board of Medical Examiners is the principal barrier that stands between the public and a large number of insufficiently trained representatives of various sects and cults clamoring for admission to the unlimited practice of medicine and surgery without being obliged to meet the requirements demanded of graduates of reputable medical schools. Use your influence to see that your representatives in the State Legislature fully understand the situation. Probably the safest course would be to see that the present law is left intact. If it is changed in any way there is danger that it will be weakened. Now is the time to impress upon our lawmakers the fact that protection of the public instead of a letting down of the bars, is demanded by a united medical profession.

MALPRACTICE INDEMNITY FUND.

It is with some degree of satisfaction we are able to announce that the necessary number has been secured to place this scheme in operation. We have now three hundred in the list and there is a gradual daily increase.

It is probable that some have overlooked this opportunity for insurance, or have deferred the matter until the plan proved possible by attaining the number required. To such we appeal for action at this time. The list of subscribers will go to the Council at the meeting of January 7th.

For information address the office of the Medical Society of the State of California, 930 Butler Building, San Francisco.

DOCTOR PHILIP MILLS JONES.

How few of us can do things that others cannot. Were you or I to die to-morrow what difference would it make? Our immediate relations might mourn perhaps, and the man whose appendix we removed yesterday might feel distressed at the idea of the interne's doing the dressings while your successor was being sought; your wife, perhaps, would have to economize, perhaps even give up the car,—but at bottom, what difference would it make? Do you think that the doctors who inherit your practice would not attend your patients just as well as you did, or better—is there anything that will stop, anything that will be left undone because you are dead? No,—Stevenson's "To be honest, to be kind" is a modest demand indeed. It takes more than that, and other than that; and the being honest and kind may not be so essential to a man's worth at all.

Work, that is the thing. And how few do work that others cannot; make things, do or write or say things that others cannot.

It was strange to pass the State Society's offices; they had that look of the unknown that sudden and shocking events impart to the most ordinary and intimate objects. To hear a typewriter rattling and to think of him who used to dictate—to see files and stacks of letters, malpractice suits and judgments coming in, and to think of him whom they used so vitally to interest. To think of the complex fabric of the State Society that he had woven, the JOURNAL, the Medical Defense, and all he had done to bring the profession together, to think of questions critically concerning them, and of what they meant to him,—and to us—his work lying undone, and he caring no longer.

Doctor Jones will be missed. Who is there to do his work? to combine law and medicine and organizatory talent; to bring to them an even and justly balanced intelligence, industry and a knowledge of dealing with men.

"To be honest, to be kind"—yes—but more than that—"Work while it is called Today; for the Night cometh wherein no man can work."

The Night hath come, and we are groping for a guide.